



Montana Department of
ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

Brian Schweitzer, Governor

P.O. Box 200901 • Helena, MT 59620-0901 • (406) 444-2544 • www.deq.mt.gov

Tuesday, December 23, 2008

Newspaper: The Times-Clarion

RE: Operating Permit Issued to Big Sky Masonry Stone, Inc. for Two Rock Collecting Sites Located in Wheatland and Golden Valley Counties for Gathering Rock for Landscaping and Masonry

Dear Editor:

Please place the following notice in the legal publication section of your newspaper.

Legal Notice

Notice of Issuance of an Operating Permit to Big Sky Masonry Stone, Inc., under the Metal Mine Reclamation Act, Section 82-4-301, et seq., MCA.

On May 12, 2005, Big Sky Masonry Stone (BSM) filed an application for an operating permit from the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ). The application was later revised on February 13, 2008 and again on June 10, 2008.

The application covered two sites. The South Shawmut site is composed of about 2,944 acres approximately 6.5 miles southwest of Shawmut, Montana, in Sections 3, 4, and 5 in Township 7 North, Range 17 East, in Wheatland County. BSM would lift rocks from the ground creating a disturbance of about two feet in depth. Up to 38 acres would be disturbed at one time. The South Barber site is composed of about 320 acres approximately 6 miles south of Barber, Montana, in Section 25, Township 6 North, Range 18 East, Golden Valley County. BSM would quarry sandstone down to a depth of about 15 feet with use of an excavator. A skid steer loader would be used to lift rocks and place them onto one to two-ton flatbed trucks. The rock would be used for building stone. Up to 20 acres would be disturbed at one time.

The operation was reviewed for compliance under a Supplemental Programmatic Environmental Assessment (SPEA) for a General Quarry Operating Permit issued by DEQ in February 2004. DEQ determined that the operation could not be covered by the SPEA because the area of disturbance could not be kept under five acres. Therefore, a supplemental draft environmental assessment was required. A Draft Checklist Environmental Assessment (CEA) was issued on August 25, 2008 with a closing comment period of September 30, 2008. No comments were received. DEQ adopted the Draft CEA as the Final EA. BSM has submitted a

reclamation bond in the amount of \$49,430. If BSM obtains additional lease agreements on other sites in the future, it would have to apply for an amendment or revision to the operating permit to cover the additional sites.

Copies of the operating and reclamation plan can be reviewed at DEQ's office complex located at 1520 E. 6th Ave., in Helena, MT.

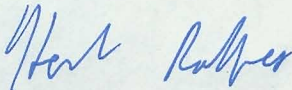
For information on the project contact:

Herb Rolfes
Operating Permit Section Supervisor
Environmental Management Bureau
Department of Environmental Quality
P.O. Box 200901
Helena, MT 59620-0901
(406) 444-3841 or e-mail at hrolfes@mt.gov

To expedite payment, please send your **invoice, original tear sheet, and affidavit of publication** to DEQ at the address above to the attention of Laura Turner. Please indicate that the bill applies to Doc # 5309-0097.

Thank you,

Sincerely,



Herb Rolfes
Hard Rock Section Supervisor
Hard Rock Operating Permit Section
Environmental Management Bureau
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